



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Houston, Texas

July 30, 1964

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS

RE: LEWIS EDWARD BERRY, JR.

Lewis Edward Berry, Jr., 2607 Leek Street, Houston, Texas, was interviewed on July 29, 1964, and furnished the following information:

Berry was born December 17, 1938, at Houston, Texas, is presently unemployed and is a senior law student at the University of Houston. He served in the U. S. Air Force from 1956 until 1960, having Serial Number 17,472,503.

Berry was apprised of the FBI's investigative jurisdiction in the internal security and related fields and stated he would be glad to furnish any information desired concerning his past activities.

Berry was questioned as to whether he has organized, has attempted to organize, or has made statements that he was attempting to organize any group designed to take action against the U. S. Government or any government officials. He replied that he has not organized and has never actually attempted to organize any such group, nor is he aware of any such group in existence at Houston or elsewhere. Berry stated he has made numerous statements while engaged in political discussions to the effect that the time might come in the future when it would be necessary for citizens to take up arms, but these statements were all of a general nature and did not anticipate any specific action in the foreseeable future. Berry was questioned as to whether he was in favor of the basic public policy decisions in the United States being made through regular democratic processes through existing government channels or if he believed direct action on the part of dissatisfied citizens was justified. He replied that in general he believes in and desires to follow the normal democratic

6-11-64 364
ENCLOSURE

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

processes, but he does not believe that all policies of the Government must necessarily be followed in the future just because such policies are supported by the majorities. He stated while it would be desirable to have all public policy changed by majority rule, he believes there has been "slippage" along this line in that the Government of the United States from time to time pursues policies which result in oppressing minorities and majorities against their will. He stated he believes the basic problem in the United States is the broad voting base which permits people with very little or no property to vote and make up the majority, when they actually, in his opinion, have no right to vote. He stated under this system it is too easy for a demagogue to control the mass of the voters and thereby obtain policies which are actually against their best interests. He was asked if he could define an educated person in this context by any other method than to consider a person was educated if he agreed with his (Berry's) particular beliefs. Berry replied that he did not mean that, but simply that he felt a person should have at least a high school education and possibly should be worth at least \$10,000 before he should be permitted to vote.

Berry was questioned as to whether he had ever made a statement to the general effect that if Robert Kennedy should be elected to office in the future there would be no need for another Oswald inasmuch as he would do that job. Berry replied he would not deny he had made such statements, but that in making them he did not mean that he would literally kill Robert Kennedy but merely that this would be an indication our government had gone so far in a direction he did not approve that the time would be reached when direct action would be necessary.

Berry was questioned as to whether he felt that he or any other individual in disagreement with a particular administration would be justified in organizing direct action against such government, even though he was convinced that the vast majority of the people were in favor of the policies of such government. Berry replied that he believed the area of public government action was very limited and that the people "do not have a right" to adopt certain policies even though such policies are adopted through open and genuine

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

democratic processes. He stated for instance that if the people of the United States should decide to elect a socialist as President, he would feel that the government had proceeded beyond a reasonable point and that he and other like-thinking citizens would then have a right to act outside the legal area in order to stop it. He stated he considered that such extralegal action would even include murder if no other means was available.

With respect to the reports that he had been connected with some organization, Berry stated he had never told anyone he felt the time was now to start such an organization to act outside the law, and in fact he believes it is certainly not time for such action now and he has hopes that Senator Barry Goldwater will be elected President, in which case it might never become necessary.

Berry was questioned as to whether he had ever made any statements to the effect that if Senator Goldwater should not be elected there would be civil riots throughout the United States, and if so what groups or individuals he felt would organize such riots. Berry replied he has frequently stated that if Goldwater should not be elected there would be civil riots but he did not mean to indicate there would be large-scale riots or that they would be country-wide. He stated he based this opinion on various remarks and opinions he had heard expressed by various people who have stated they would be "angry" if Goldwater were defeated, but he was unaware of any individual or group which was planning to organize for any such action. Berry stated in fact he feels that such action would be extremely unwise and against the interests of the ultra-conservatives inasmuch as it would result in more sympathy for the moderate and liberal groups. Berry voluntarily stated if he should hear in the future of any plan for any such activity he would report it to the FBI.

With respect to possible action against Cuba, Berry stated he had never been involved in or had knowledge of any group engaged in planning actions against Cuba and he could not recall ever having implied to anyone that he was involved in such activities.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Berry was questioned as to any knowledge he might have of the organization known as the "Minutemen." He stated to the best of his knowledge he had never met any member of the organization, although it is possible he has met such members without knowing it. He stated he did not share the view attributed to this group that the takeover of the United States by the communists was imminent, although he believed there were many communists well placed in our Government.

Berry was advised of the FBI's interest in learning the identity of any Communist Party members in the U. S. Government and was informed that if he could furnish any factual information whatever tending to identify any Government employee as a communist, he could be sure that the FBI would initiate an immediate and thorough investigation of that matter. Berry then stated that in fact he had no information whatever to indicate that any Communist Party member was employed by the U. S. Government.

The name of Stanley Toland was mentioned to Berry, and he replied he was well acquainted with Toland who had recently "flunked out" of law school at the University of Houston and had returned to Dallas. Berry stated he had resided in the Toland residence in Dallas a few months ago when he went to Dallas for the Republican State Convention. Berry was asked if he had ever heard Toland or any other person claim to have personal knowledge of the assassination of President Kennedy. He replied he had heard Toland state that he (Toland) had heard there were some right-wing groups involved and that Toland had also made some mention of the employment of hypnotism in connection with the assassination. He stated, however, that knowing Toland frequently makes wild statements in order to gain attention and interest, he has learned it is very difficult to determine when Toland is speaking seriously and when he is joking. He stated he has decided that Toland was not serious when he made reference to "right-wing groups" being connected with the assassination and he has learned to take everything Toland says "with a grain of salt." Berry acknowledged that Toland had "tossed around" such names as H. L. Hunt, General Edwin Walker, and Lamar Hunt with the implication that those individuals may have had some connection with the assassination.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Berry stated, however, that although the above individuals are probably known as being very conservative and opposed to the late President Kennedy, he doubts seriously that Toland has ever met any of them or that Toland has any actual knowledge that they were involved.

Berry denied he knew of any person or group of persons in Houston or elsewhere who had ever collected or stored away any guns or other weapons in anticipation of their use against constituted authority.

With respect to James Parrott, Berry stated he met Parrott in about 1959 or 1960 in connection with his work with the Harris County Young Republicans. He stated Parrott has a "personality problem" and had been discharged from the U. S. Air Force for psychiatric reasons. Berry stated that Parrott feels very strongly about the liberal trend in government, but he certainly does not feel that Parrott is a dangerous person. Berry stated that Parrott seems to have a preoccupation or fear of what he refers to as the "conspiracies" and he has no doubt that Parrott may have expressed approval of the removal of President Kennedy from office. He stated Parrott is the type of person who makes irresponsible remarks and may well have stated in the past he would shoot someone if necessary, but in fact he believes Parrott would not take such action and that his remarks are innocuous.

Berry recalled in connection with H. L. Hunt, whom he referred to as a wealthy Fort Worth man, that Toland once stated that H. L. Hunt held the number one membership card in the American Nazi Party. Berry stated he considered this as just another remark of Toland and he had no reason to believe it to be factual.

Berry stated he wanted to make it clear that his remarks about citizens taking direct action were not meant to mean that a citizen under present conditions would be justified in direct action, but he was merely referring to the traditional concept of the "right of revolution" which has always been considered by political philosophers as being one of the rights of man. He stated he certainly did

RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

not think the United States was anywhere near a situation in which a person would be justified in invoking this right of revolution, and he hoped that point would never be reached. Berry stated he certainly did not approve of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and if he should ever hear in the future of any plan or plot to assassinate President Johnson, he would certainly report that matter to the FBI.

The following descriptive data was noted during this interview:

Name	Lewis Edward Berry, Jr.
Sex	Male
Race	White
Born	December 17, 1938, Houston, Texas
Height	5'9"
Weight	155 pounds
Build	Medium
Hair	Light brown
Eyes	Blue, wears glasses
Complexion	Medium
Peculiarities	None apparent